

CHIEF, FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

DEFINITION:

Under general direction to plan, implement, organize and direct all Forensic Mental Health Services programs operated by the county; and to perform related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This is a single position class, which reports to the Clinical Director of the Mental Health Division of the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). The Chief, Forensic Mental Health Services is responsible for the management of the Psychiatric security components located at county detention facilities, the outpatients and day treatment component at Los Colinas, the forensic evaluation component at the Courthouse, and the community based outpatients service component for the judicially committed.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Plans, implements and directs forensic mental health programs; directs the formulation and development of policies relating to the forensic mental health services throughout the county; supervises managers and coordinators of forensic mental health programs; provides clinical supervision to professional staff; provides administrative supervision to psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and clerical staff; reviews evaluations, treatment plans, and charts for quality and compliance with regulations and standards; implements policies established by superiors; establishes procedures governing forensic mental health services; provides expert witness testimony in court concerning the ongoing development of the CONREP program and recommendations concerning specified clients; develops and controls the annual budget for the forensic mental health components; maintains liaison with law enforcement agencies and the courts on judiciary matters pertaining to forensic mental health issues; directs the analysis of legislation affecting forensic mental health services programs and makes recommendations for change; supervises the monitoring of treatment and other services given to patients by providers under contract with the county; evaluates the effectiveness of treatment and other services provided by both county operated and contract programs.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Thorough Knowledge of:

- Clinical therapy and practice.
- Forensic and clinical psychology.
- Forensic Mental Health program planning, administration and evaluation.
- Community mental health resources.
- Principle of Personnel Management.
- Civil and Penal commitment statutory laws and evolving case law.
- Federal, state and local laws, regulations, codes and policies pertaining to forensic mental health services.

General Knowledge of:

- Public agency budgetary process and contracting procedures.
- Principles of supervision and training.
- The General Management System in principle and in practice.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Provide clinical and administrative supervision to a multi-disciplinary staff.
- Conceptualize, develop, monitor and evaluate forensic mental health services programs.
- Establish and implement policies and procedures governing forensic mental health services.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, complex psychiatric or psychological findings to the court, county or other governmental agencies and persons with diverse backgrounds and interests.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, clients, families, and other agencies which interface with program.
- Analyze complex problems and reach practical and logical solutions.
- Coordinate resources and staff to accomplish goals set.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training and/or experience which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Applicants must be licensed by the State of California to practices as a Psychologist or Psychiatrist. Examples of qualifying Education/Experience are:

1. Psychiatrist: Graduation from an accredited medical school, AND:
 - a. Three (3) years residency in psychiatry, AND, completion of a fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry, OR,
 - b. Four (4) years of full-time, post-residency experience working in the field of Forensic Psychiatry.
2. Psychology: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a doctorate degree in Psychology, AND:
 - a. Five (5) years, post-licensure experience delivering mental health services, AND, is a candidate for board certification in Forensic Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology, OR,
 - b. Four (4) years, of full-time, post-doctoral experience working in the field of Forensic Psychology.
3. All applicants must have one (1) year of mental health administrative experience involving supervision and management responsibilities.

Preference will be given to clinical/administrative experience with forensic patients and experience in providing Court testimony as an expert witness.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Applicants must be licensed by the State of California as a Psychologist or Psychiatrist. A copy of current licensure must be attached to application.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

Background:

Applicants must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Convictions, depending on type, number, and recency may be disqualifying. Prior to appointment, candidates offered positions in Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) programs that deal with patients and/or drugs will be subject to a limited security clearance investigation performed by the HHSA.